

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Thus, no new matter is added that would require further consideration and/or search.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 8, 11 and 14 are indicated as being allowable if claim 2 is rewritten in independent form. As the subject matter of claim 2 is included in amended independent claim 1, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite by depending from a cancelled claim. As claim 10 is cancelled, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over US Patent Application Publication 2004/0159050 to Pasqualoni, et al. (Pasqualoni). As claims 13 and 16 are cancelled, the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of claims 1 and 4-6 is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Therefore, Pasqualoni fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the rejected claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Fitzpatrick, 41,018 at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: 

John W. Fitzpatrick, Reg. No. 41,018

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/JWF/kas